

Message Text

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13

ACTION AF-18

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TAGS: PFOR CB

SUBJ8 SIHANOUK PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 13 AT DAKAR

REF: DAKAR 1843

1. (SUMMARY) PRINCE SIHANOUK IN DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 13 ATTENDED BY LOCAL AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS SAID THE EXPECTED IN TERMS OF REFUSAL NEGOTIATE WITH LON NOL GOVERNMENT, DEMAND THAT US CEASE AIR

ACTIVITY AND MILITARY SUPPORT TO GKR, OFFER NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH USG AND FINALLY PROMISE OF 500 TONS EMERGENCY RICE SHIPMENT TO DROUGHT

STRICKEN SENEGAL THROUGH GOOD OFFICE OF PRC. (END SUMMARY)

2. IN A DAKAR PRESS CONFERENCE CONSISTING OF MUCH MORE ANSWER THAN QUESTIONS, SIHANOUK MADE MOST OF HIS POINTS IN ANSWER TO FIRST OBVIOUSLY STAGED AND LOADED QUESTION ON HOW HEFORESAW RETURN TO PEACE IN CAMBODIA AND WHETHER RECOGNITION OF GRUNK BY MORE THAN THE PRESENT 37 COUNTRIES WOULD LEAD QTE THOSE WHO PLAY GENDARMES TO THE WORLD UNQTE TO NO LONGER SUPPORT LON NOL GOVERNMENT.

3. SIHANOUK SAID WE HAVE REJECTED ANY IDEA OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CLIQUE OF LON NOL, SIRIK MATAK, AND IN TAM WHO EVEN AMERICANS ADMIT ARE PEOPLE PAID AND MANIPULATED BY AMERICAN IMPERIALISM. WE PREFER UNCLASSIFIED

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DISCUSS DIRECTLY WITH USG, HAVE PROPOSED BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THIS REJECTED BY PRESIDENT NIXON. OUR DOOR REMAINS WIDE OPEN AND WE WILL RECONCILE WITH USG ON THREE CONDITIONS: A. CEASE ALL AERIAL INTERVENTION IN CAMBODIA. B. STOP MILITARY AID TO LON NOL REGIME, AND C. WITHDRAW ALL NON CAMBODIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM OUR COUNTRY. IF THESE THREE CONDITIONS WERE MET, LON NOL CLIQUE WOULD NOT LAST 24 HOURS.

4. HE THEN DISCUSSED EXTENT AND NATURE OF US AIR ACTION OVER CAMBODIA,

SAYING US GIVES FIGURE OF 260 FLIGHTS PER DAY, AND HE WORKED IN TYPES OF AIRCRAFT AND BOMBS, INCLUDING NAPALM, DELAYED ACTION, FLECHETTE, ETC., OF WHOM VICTIMS ARE CIVILIANS RATHER THAN MILITARY, CITING SENATORS KENNEDY, MANSFIELD AND FULBRIGHT ON LATTER POINT. OF ABOVE THREE CONDITIONS, THE REALLY IMPORTANT ONE IS THE AIR SUPPORT, RATHER THAN ARMS TO LON NOL, BECAUSE REBELS BENEFIT FROM LATTER, ACQUIRING 3/4 OF THEIR ARMS BY CAPTURE FROM GKR TROOPS. THUS, REBEL FORCES SURROUND SMALL TOWNS, DELIBERATELY DO NOT TAKE THEM, SO THEY WILL RECEIVE AERIAL RESUPPLY FROM WHICH BESIEGING TROOPS BENEFIT, AS ITEMS ARE CAPTURED IF PARACHUTES ARE BLOWN BY WIND OVER ATTACKERS.

5. IF US SUPPORT TO GKR CONTINUES, THEN 1974 WILL BE DECISIVE YEAR FOR ROYAL GOVERNMENT; IF NOT, SUCCESS WILL COME SOONER. WE STILL WIL-
LING OFFER PEACE WITHOUT WINNERS OR LOSERS, EXCEPT LON NOL CLIQUE. US CAN JUST SEND A PANAM BOEING TO FLY THEM OUT TO HAWAII, SO THEY CAN LIVE THERE OR IN PARIS ON THEIR SWISS BANK ACCOUNTS. OTHERWISE WE WILL

BE FORCED TO HANG THEM.

6. THE KHMERS ROUGES ARE MUCH MORE KHMERS THAN ROUGES. THEY ARE NA-
TIONALISTS, LEGITIMISTS, LEFTISTS, BUDDHISTS; THEY ARE NOT COMMUNISTS.

FURTHERMORE, INDOCHINESE COMMUNISTS ARE NOT DANGEROUS. THEY ARE DAN-
GEROUS ONLY BECAUSE THEY REPRESENT AN IDEA, THE STRUGGLE OF THE UNDER-

DEVELOPED FOR INDEPENDENCE.

7. THE CONGRESS HAS JUST SAID NO TO NECESSARY CREDITS FOR US EFFORT IN CAMBODIA. WHILE THE PRESIDENT SAYS HE HAS ENOUGH MONEY UNTIL JUNE,

WHAT WILL HE DO AFTER THAT? EITHER HE BECOMES REASONABLE AND DROPS
LON NOL OR HE CONTINUES THE WAR AND WE WIN IN 1974.

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8. THOSE COUTRIES WHO HAVE ALREADY RECOGNIZED THE GRUNK ARE TRUE
FRIENDS. COUNTRIES SUCH AS FRANCE AND THE USSR WHICH WILL DO SO
AFTER
WE ARE IN PHNOM PENH WILL BE FALSE FRIENDS.

9. ASKED TO PREDICT POSTWAR CONDITIONS, HE SAID HE COULD NOT SAY THAT

HE WOULD ALWAYS BE CHIEF OF STATE OR THAT KHMERS ROUGES WOULD
REMAIN
SUPPORTERS OF KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA. BUT FOR TIME BEING HE IS
NECESSARY
AS SYMBOL OF UNITY OF ALL GROUPS. STATE WILL REMAIN PROTECTOR OF ALL
RELIGIONS AND NOT BE AN ATHEIST STATE.

10. FINALLY HE PROMISED CAMBODIA WOULD ALWAYS IN FUTURE SELL SENE-
GAL THE BEST RICE AT LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICES, AND ANNOUNCED GIFT OF
500 TONS NOW FOR AID TO DROUGHT VICTIMS. ELSEWHERE IN DAKAR PRESS IT
WAS SPECIFIED THAT THIS WOULD BE DELIVERED BY THE PRC.

11. DETAILS OF VISIT SCHEDULE AND RATHER INNOCUOUS COMMUNIQUE RE-
PORTED SEPARATELY.
CLARK

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